

Remarks

The Office Action dated September 18, 2008, has been received and noted. Careful reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is most respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 36 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 15 and 16 are cancelled, without prejudice. New claim 28 is added. The amendments do not add new matter. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification and the accompanying figures, for example, on pages 10-11 and claim 1. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 25-28 and 31 are withdrawn following a restriction requirement.

Thus, claims 1-14 and 17-38 are pending in the present application and respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

Objections:

Claims 4, 11, 23, 29, 32 and 36 are objected to due to informalities. Applicants hereby amend these claims to correct the informalities and to comply with accepted U.S. patent practice. Thus, applicants respectfully request that the claim objections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a):

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 19-24, 29, 30 and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over by Madden et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation and obviousness rejections and respectfully submit that Madden fails to disclose or suggest all the features of any of the presently pending claims.

Specifically, Madden fails to disclose or suggest a conductive polymer having a deformation property. The deformation property of the claimed embodiments is a result of the process disclosed in claim 1. Although claim 1 is withdrawn from consideration, numerous pending claims refer to claim 1 or other independent claims similar to claim 1.

One of the features of the process claimed in claim 1 and the other independent claims is the conductive polymer having a deformation property. This feature allows the claimed embodiments to take the form of desired shapes. Thus, the claimed embodiments may be used for a variety of applications not available to conductive polymers in the known art. Because the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the claims, it cannot be held to show this feature as well.

Madden relates to a conducting polymer actuator. An actuator of Madden has an active member including a polymer having a surface. An electrolyte is coupled to the surface. When an electrical potential is

applied across the electrolyte between the active member and the counter electrode, a force is exerted. Madden, however, does not disclose or suggest the deformation property as recited in the pending claims.

Madden does not produce its actuators using the process claimed by the present invention, for example, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the actuators of Madden do not have the deformation property provided by the process to the conductive polymers used in the devices, actuators and the like. Thus, Madden fails to disclose or suggest at least these features of the claims.

Thus, for at least these reasons, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the features of the independent claims, or any of the claims depending therefrom. Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation and the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all issues raised in the Office Action are hereby addressed and rendered moot.

New Claim:

New claim 38 is submitted to further claim the disclosed embodiments. Claim 38 is dependent upon claim 4, and is allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above.

Conclusion:

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 and 17-38 are distinguishable over the cited references, and that these claims be passed to allowance. With this response, all issues raised by the office action are hereby addressed and resolved.

In the event that the Examiner desires to discuss any aspect of this application to expedite allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned. In the event that any fees are now due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-4080.

Respectfully submitted,
By /**William F. Nixon/**

William F. Nixon
Registration No. 44,262 for
Stephen B. Parker, Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,631
Watchstone P+D, pllc, 1250 Connecticut
Ave, N.W. (Suite 700), Washington, D.C.
20036
202-419-1518